



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
MARCH 14, 2019
9:00 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

Board Members Present:

John Felts, Chairman
Andy Shock, Vice Chairman
Lona McCastlain, Secretary
John Belken, Commissioner
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner
Dawne Vandiver, Commissioner
Jerry Riley, Commissioner

Excused with Valid Reason(s):

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge, APB

Others Present:

Brooke D. Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB
Lisa Wilkins, Hearing Judge, APB
Evelyn Gomez, Hearing Judge, APB
William T. Bowman, II, Systems Coordination Analyst, APB
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB
Christie Little, Business Operations Manager, APB
Hollie Wellborn, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Monica Adams, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes – February 28, 2019

Vice Chairman Shock moved for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Belken seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

A copy of the minutes was included in each board member's file for review.

Agency Updates

Chairman Felts advised the Board that the Governor's Office is trying to make some changes regarding Pardons and Commutations. They would be minor changes, but they would help tremendously. On Pardons in particular, the Governor's Office is trying to make some changes so that the process moves along faster because there is such a backup. The changes would involve changing some dates and wording.

Chairman Felts finished up agency updates by discussing changes to the 30 day wait period. After the Board makes their recommendation there is a 30 day waiting period before the recommendation can be sent to the Governor. Commissioner Belken asked what change will be made. Chairman Felts advised Commissioner Belken and the rest of the Board that the Parole Board's 30 day waiting period would be omitted.

There were no questions regarding agency updates.

Old Business

Chairman Felts told the Board that he went to the Capitol yesterday and met with Senator Elliott to discuss SB313. The bill would require all commissioners to submit a summary of their reasoning for any decision made for the denial of an inmate's parole. Chairman Felts advised Senator Elliott that the Board is not equipped to do that, and we would require additional commissioners and support staff.

There were no questions regarding old business.

New Business

There was nothing to report regarding new business.

Files for Review

Secretary McCastlain requested that the Board no longer list "did not receive 5 affirmative votes" as a reason for denial on the files for review. Chairman Felts agreed and said a more specific reason for denial should be given.

A copy of the files for review was included in each board member's packet.

Adoption of Recommendations

Secretary McCastlain moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

Signature on File

**John Felts
Chairman**

Signature on File

**Lona McCastlain
Secretary**

**Arkansas Parole Board
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES**

March 2019

UNITS:

RATIFIED

Delta



Wrightsville



Wrightsville Hawkins



Tucker



Tucker Max



Cummins



Benton



TRCC/SWACC



Bowie County



McPherson



North Central



NWA- Work Release



**OTHER: Pardons, Commutations, Transfer Screenings, ACT 290s,
700s, Reconsiderations, Revocation Appeals, Rescinds,
Special Conditions, EPAs, Etc.**



MOTION BY: Secretary McCastlain SECONDED BY: Commissioner Carpenter

RATIFICATION DATE: March 14, 2019